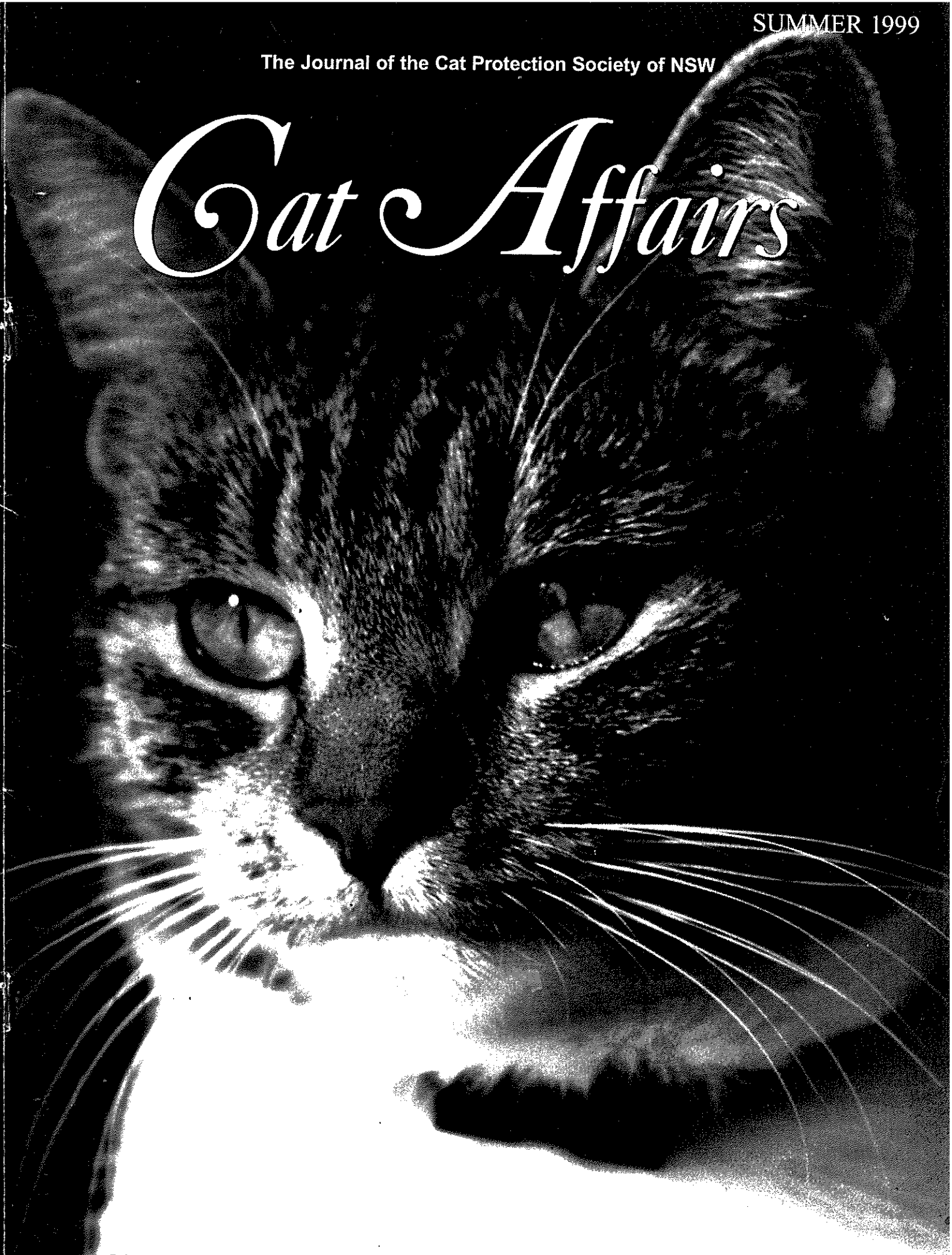


SUMMER 1999

The Journal of the Cat Protection Society of NSW

# *Cat Affairs*





# THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NSW

A.C.N. 001 604 815

Registered Office and postal address: 103 Enmore Road, Enmore, NSW 2042

Welfare Office - Volunteer Enquiries: 9557-1011, 9519-7201 Fax 9557-8052

Opportunity Shop: 87 Enmore Road, Enmore NSW 2042, 9516-2072

Parkland Boarding Kennels: 469 Sunnyside Road, Blacktown NSW 2148, 9626-9333



## THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE ....

At our recent Annual General Meeting I was able to report that the last twelve months have been a productive period for your Society. I will touch on three major areas.

First, in terms of cat welfare there have been a number of important advances including the establishment of a series of Cat Adoption Centres in conjunction with Whiskas; the expansion of our subsidised desexing and microchipping program through local councils; and the trialing of a cooperative program with the Department of Housing (see Sue Matysek's report on page 5 for more details).

Second, we have recently refurbished our premises at Enmore resulting in a much better work environment for our staff and providing better housing for the cats. We have increased the number of cats and kittens being placed through the office.

Third, the Companion Animals Act came into full effect during the year. This brought with it some benefits in terms of protection of cats but also presented us with some operational difficulties.

Implementation of the Act has been hindered by three factors. The first is that there have been major difficulties in accessing the Register that was set up to hold all the information about microchipped and registered animals. The second factor was that there was an industrial dispute in the Department of Local Government and this impeded the flow of information about the Act. Thirdly, no registration agents, other than councils have yet been appointed. This has meant that organisations like ourselves and veterinarians have not had direct access to the Register and therefore have not been able to easily locate owners of animals that have been handed to us.

The Society's staff and councillors have been busy during the year and I would like to thank everyone for their efforts. Two councillors did not seek re-election for the new Council. They are Beverley Walsh, Vice President and a long serving member of Council, and John Burnett. John has been very active in the work of the Op Shop, a task we hope he will continue. Thank you Beverley and John for your contributions to the Society. Welcome to the new members of Council Ros Riordan, Gae Hobson and Tony Puren.

The Op Shop makes a valuable contribution to the finances of your Society. Thanks to the volunteers and to Councillor Grace Ayling who is the Op Shop Co-ordinator.

Cat Affairs continues to be a very important part of the Society. Unfortunately, Lee Wright has indicated that she will be relinquishing her role as editor. Thank you Lee for all you have done - it will be a difficult task for someone else to fill your shoes.

With regard to the future I see two major challenges. Firstly, reducing the number of cats and kittens being dumped or surrendered, and secondly, increasing the number of homes for cats. We need to expand our existing programs, but more importantly, we  
*[continued on page 3, right column]*

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### **VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS NEEDED FOR OPPORTUNITY SHOP**

**COVER:** Reflective Spirit, photographer: Derek Blew

**CENTREFOLD:** Trusting Spirits, photographer: Derek Blew

**BACK COVER:** Watching for Santa, photographer: Frances Kaukerei

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In my years as editor you have not seen many editorials... there always seemed to be something more interesting, more necessary to take the space. But this is my 6th year and 18th issue as editor of Cat Affairs ... and my final edition.

I have very much enjoyed sourcing the copy and presenting each issue - always trying to get new and interesting stories to keep each magazine fresh, informative and worthwhile. I most especially thank all the members who have contributed so many wonderful articles and photos over the years - your original and creative stories have added a zest to the magazine and given it a warm and personal touch that was always apparent.

A very special thanks to Frances Kaukerei who contributed so many superb photos. It was always a great feeling diving into my reserve pile and choosing just the right picture for an article or a full page photo. I could not have created a magazine of this standard without Frances' photographic flare and co-operation.

To all the people I approached for articles and books, thanks; most especially to the artists who happily posted photos and stories about their cat creations. I hope the readers took advantage of the opportunity to support them. Loving art and loving cats, the feature artist articles were among my most favourite inclusions and my only regret was that the black/white format did not show their creations to perfection. But the money that colour costs is better put to our main objective ... looking after cats, and still more cats.

To the management and staff of the CPS, heartfelt thanks for handing me the wonderful opportunity to edit Cat Affairs. Thanks for your help and support over the term of my editorship and I hope I can now help the Society in other ways.

As a final note; the war against pain, suffering, neglect and irresponsible owners is one we will never win, but each time you contribute time, goods or money, you promote the work that the CPS does and ensure that the Society is here to help the cats we can and educate the people we can. Each contribution is important, so very important. The CPS does make a difference. Our tally over the years of cats homed, cats saved and cats given a dignified end, speak loudly for the dedication of the people who are the CPS - both those on the active front and you, our members, who actively support this vital charity and service. Maybe we will never win this war ... but by God we do make a strong statement of caring and concern and, most importantly, action. Please, continue to support the society in all that they do.

It has been a wonderful experience and personal accomplishment to have had this small part in the work of the Society. I can never express my thanks strongly enough, nor my joy in my labour of love to do the magazine. My own cats were constant inspirations, incentives and companions through every page. (Most especially my beautiful, black smoke Devon Rex, BBQT, who usually rests on my forearm or between my arms as I'm typing copy).

May your god/goddess bless each of you, may he/she bless all the cats you love - and may he/she most beneficially bless the cats that come into the Society's care.  
Lee Wright -

# A GOOD CHRISTMAS PRESENT ? WRONG!!

Last year a young couple bought two young kittens from the CPS at Concord Animal Hospital on Christmas Eve. They were to be a surprise gift for one of their mothers for Christmas. Unfortunately, and hardly surprising, it all turned rather sour when the recipient refused to have them. Rather than returning these desexed, vaccinated, microchipped and wormed kittens to the CPS for rehoming, the couple chose to pay a local vet to have them euthanased! Fortunately, on hearing they were CPS kittens, the vet rang us, thinking we would certainly take them back, which we did without question.

Our policy has always been an open door one for the return of our cats and kittens that, for one reason or another, prove unsuitable when their new owners take them home.

Back to the idea of a kitten as a Christmas present. It is not that we are categorically against giving pets as presents, but the scenario described above is all too common. It is important to check with the recipient of the potential gift that the pet is actually wanted and if it is practical for the person to own a pet. A simple question can save a lot of heartache for both the giver and the receiver.... and, ultimately, the animal itself.

Certainly it would have been a tragedy if those kittens had been needlessly euthanased because of an imprudent purchase. It would have been even worse had the purchasers simply dumped them. Instead, we are happy to report that they did indeed find caring homes soon after.

## ERRATA

In the accounts as published in the Spring Journal, there were two errors.

Income for 1998 should have been \$301,234 (not \$301,621)

Expenditure for 1998 should have been \$430,462 (not \$430,849)



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT *continued from page 2..*

need to develop an educational program that reaches all members of our society pointing out the responsibilities we all have towards animals. Such a program will require a co-operative effort on the part of animal welfare organisations, educational institutions, government and industry. The current approach of each organisation running its own programs has clearly not succeeded to date.

The Cat Protection Society has to be tireless and innovative in seeking the most appropriate approach so that it can best protect the interests of the cats and ensure that the community and cats can live together in harmony. The challenge is there for all of us.

**KEITH EDWARDS**



# THE . S C R A T C H I N G P O S T .

## PURRING WITH A BYTE

Heather O'Rourke

Recently, when my computer addicted son was home, he recorded our 13 year old cat purring with his 'hi-fi' computer equipment. When he returned to Sydney and even more 'hi fi' computer equipment, he transmitted the purring to his sister's computer in Canberra and with her office's very, very 'hi fi' computer equipment, she, and the rest of the office, could hear the cat purring. Now how's that for cat-purr relay.

## CATS' FAVOURITE CHRISTMAS CAROLS



The First Mewl  
Fleas Navidad

Angels We Have Purred on High  
A Stray in The Manger  
Jingling Bells

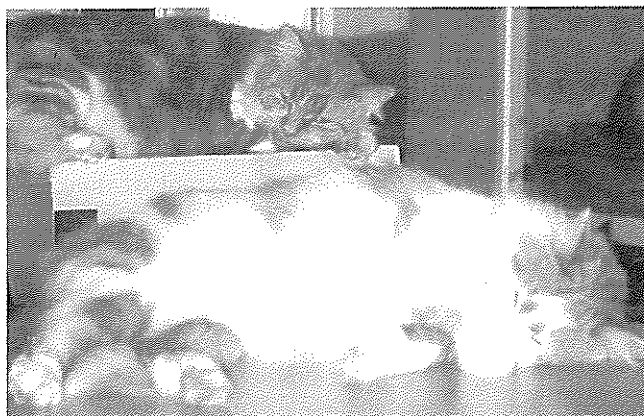
I Saw Mummy Licking Santa Claus  
Toys to The World  
Twas The Nap Before Christmas

\* \* \* \* \*

## EDITOR RETIRES

A special tribute to Lee Wright who is retiring from the Editorship of *Cat Affairs* is certainly warranted. This summer issue of *Cat Affairs* will be Lee's final journal and her professionalism and ideas will be sorely missed. Lee took on the editorship in 1994 and has since edited a very respectable 18 issues. The work involved in editing *Cat Affairs* is substantial and Lee took on the entire production, and mailing. We salute you, Lee, for your dedication to cats and wish you all the best.

These are two lovely sisters we purchased from CPS over a year ago. As you can see from the photo, they are very spoiled. We love them and couldn't imagine our office without them.  
Josy Knowland

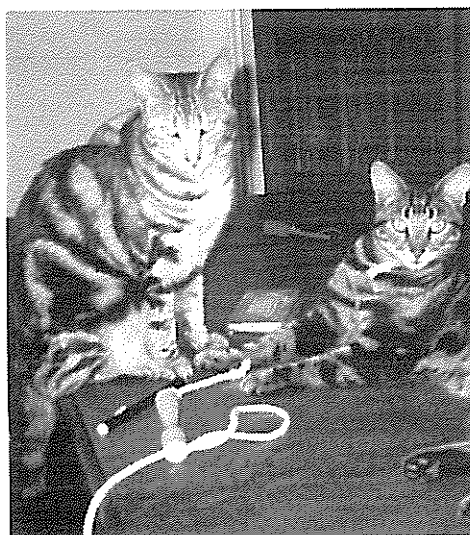


## IMPURRFECTIIONS

Many thanks for the acceptance of my story "Impurrfectiions" (page 17). Bidy has since become my cat as from April this year. Her owners, our former next door neighbours, moved to the north coast and didn't think that Bidy, being an old cat, would adapt to her new surroundings. We had her on a shared basis since 1987 when my own cat died. Bidy has been part of our family for a long time.  
Kathleen Fernandes

## PRINCESS TIGER LILY & ROCKY

We love reading *Cat Affairs* to keep up with the good things you do. I wanted to share a photo of my two lovely cats.  
Alison Foster



## CAT CHECKERS

John Rich

I have two cats, Calico, whom I have had since she was a kitten, and Penthouse, a

stray who just wandered in one day.

Penthouse was already desexed and I have often wondered if she was abandoned or was the companion of some old person living alone who died and the ambulance just carted off, not knowing that there was an animal on the premises.

As I live alone I often have wondered if there is some central agency where I could register my cats in case the same thing happens to me. My mother told me that during the war in England, there was such a system and volunteers would check on your animals after each air raid.

I have enclosed a story about Penthouse who seems very intelligent. (See *Cat Tales*) Her time on the streets made her very much her own animal and life tends to be on her terms. She has certainly earned my respect.

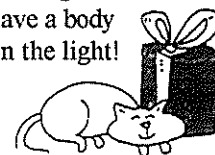
## BELOVED PUSSY CAT

Dorothy M Taylor

My pussy is a poem  
Wrapped in singing fur:  
She gives me love and comfort  
And I give it back to her.

Her every move is graceful,  
She pirouettes in the air,  
Or curls up like a seashell  
On her favourite chair.

Her eyes are two gold lanterns  
Glowing in the night;  
She doesn't have a body  
Till I switch on the light!



\* \* \* \* \*

## NEW EDITOR

We warmly welcome Suzanne Jenkins as our new Editor of *Cat Affairs*. Suzanne will be combining her present role as Secretary for the CPS Council (which she has held for a number of years) with the editorship of *Cat Affairs*. Suzanne's ideas and enthusiasm for the cause will stand her in good stead and I am sure her ideas and vigour will keep us enjoying *Cat Affairs* in the issue to come and for many more in the future.  
Best of luck, Suzanne





## TAILS

*Sue Matysek*

Life has been very hectic on the office front over the last quarter but also very exciting with the launch of a number of new initiatives directed towards achieving our goals of providing affordable desexing of cats and finding more homes for surrendered cats and kittens.

### Cat Adoption Centres

We held a fabulously successful Open Day on October 2 at our renovated premises in Enmore to launch Cat Adoption Centres in Sydney. Unfortunately, due to the timing of this advent, we were unable to extend a general invitation to all our members via the journal. For full details and pictures on this new CPS venture, turn to page 7.

### Joint Desexing Scheme

#### Wollondilly Council

A loud cheer for Wollondilly Council! This Council (for those who don't know) covers a huge area in Sydney's south west. During October we put together a super cheap desexing and microchip package for the residents of the Shire.

*The CPS picking up cats for desexing at Wollondilly Shire*



Welfare officer Sandy Moss picked up the cats at a central point, transported them to Casula Vet Hospital where they were ably desexed by Dr Paul Gotis-Graham and returned them to their owners the following day. Wollondilly Council promoted and advertised the event. In fact, it proved so popular we had to repeat the offer the following week with a third visit pending. We know we prevented at least 20 litters during November in this area - and that's at least 80 cats!. All of the female cats were of kitten bearing age and some were already pregnant.

We are currently following up with other Councils to repeat this success and help us reach people who have cats that need desexing. However, your voice would also help. Please contact your local Council and tell them how a similar scheme would be greatly appreciated in your local area.

### Joint Desexing Scheme Parramatta Department of Housing

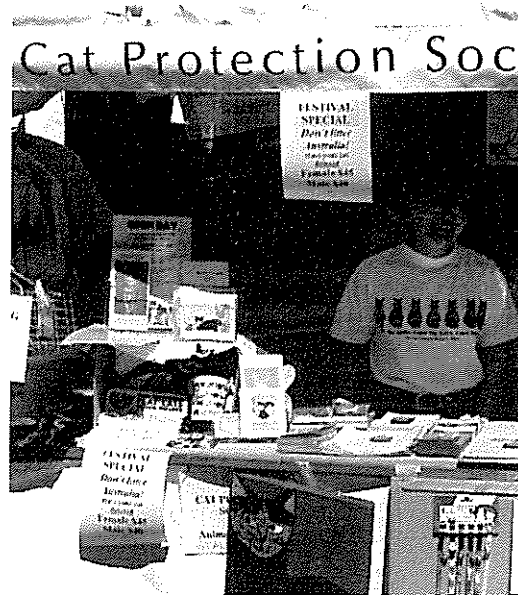
*Tania Curran collecting cat for desexing*



Together with the Department of Housing in Parramatta, we ran a successful pilot scheme in a number of blocks in Granville that we hope to repeat soon and to extend to other Department of Housing blocks.

### Marrickville Festival

We held a successful awareness raising stall at Marrickville Festival in September. Our Vice President, Angelika Elliott is pictured here ready for action. We handed out discounted desexing and microchipping vouchers, sold T-shirts and other products and talked to many people on cat related issues including ramifications of the Companion Animals Act.



*Angelika Elliott at Marrickville Festival*

*Seasons Greetings to all members and we look forward to many more cat happenings in 2000!*



As those of you who came to the AGM will know, we are very keen to provide low cost desexing to residents in Department of Housing blocks as a practical incentive towards responsible cat ownership.

# Cat Tails



## A CAT'S CAROL

Kate Watts

A winter night, a stable bare:  
Mother and babe alone were there.  
Wise men had left their gifts and gone.  
Only the ox and ass knelt on.

Out of the shadows crept a cat.  
He stole to where the mother sat,  
"Lady", said he, "so full of grace,  
Cats are a proud and mighty race.

"Thus I have never learned, I fear,  
To kneel, as do my brothers here,  
Yet cats are gracious - I would bring,  
Some tribute to this new-born king.

"We cats own nothing but our fur -  
I cannot bring a gift of myrrh,  
No gold nor frankincense have I.  
Instead, I'll sing a lullaby.

"Lady, fear not! No wailings wild,  
Shall terrify this holy child.  
I'll sing my rocking song with love,  
As softly, gently as a dove."

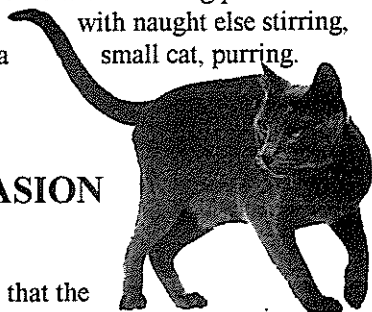
With that he crouched upon the floor,  
Marking strict time with kneading paw.  
Then sweetly rose, with naught else stirring,  
The music of a small cat, purring.

## A RUSSIAN INVASION

Margaret Lorang

This is just to let you know that the dear little 'Russian Blue' cat we collected from Concord (Animal Hospital) last Tuesday has stopped purring virtually only to eat and sleep, since we were halfway home in the car. Despite her initial reaction to being lowered into the basket, her gentle, trusting ways have captured our hearts entirely.

I have always longed for a Russian Blue type cat. After a lifetime of being adopted by unwanted (and sometimes rather hard to love) strays, this exquisite puss is a source of great delight. Thank you for taking the time and trouble to help us find each other. It hurts to think that others like her die unwanted. Bless you for your good work, and know that it is deeply appreciated. Please convey my thanks and good wishes to your staff. Thank you so much and be assured that Natasha has a good home.



## WE WANT TO SAY 'THANKS'

Katharine Titchen, Hawaii

I found the Society's address while going through some old documents. I am writing in hopes you can put a mention in your newsletter. I am also sending a letter to the editor of the Manly Daily in hopes they might print it.

We were living in Collaroy in 1985 when my 11 year old son saw an ad in the Manly Daily at Christmas for a kitten needing a home. He wanted it for Christmas. The couple who owned the kitten lived in Harbord, Curl Curl or nearby, I now forget exactly where. They seemed very caring and fond of the frisky little striped black and brown tabby. They called him Dee Why because he was found in a gully there.

John renamed the kitten Beau. When we moved back to Honolulu in 1987 Dee Why/Beau moved with us. He grew to about 15 pounds and was a happy, talkative, friendly cat all his life, our official greeter who met us at the front steps whenever he heard the car. He loved to play in the yard, scamper over the roof, dash around in the moonlight and race up the coconut tree with his adopted 'brother', another cat we acquired from the Seaforth Animal Clinic. Beau died of cancer in 1997 at the age of 11. He is still missed. If this couple gets Cat Affairs I want them to know that their Dee Why had a happy life and was much loved by us.

## PENTHOUSE

John Rich

I have loved cats all my life and have a fine Oriental bitser female called Calico sharing my home. Some years ago a small tortoiseshell tabby female took up residence in a part of my roof. This roof space is accessible because of a loose board and a number of cats used it until she moved in.

She seemed to be abandoned and looking for a home and would peer through a gap in the ceiling and keep an eye on my kitchen. We had the odd conversation and I fed her and while she was friendly, she never left her home in daylight as the next door's toms would fight with her. Because of the location of her 'home', I named her Penthouse.

One day I put a nice piece of steak on the kitchen table to defrost and two hours later it was gone. I searched high and low for it, thinking the toms had taken it, but to no avail. I then went to Penthouse and confronted her, asking if she had taken it. The strangest thing then happened. She left her roof space and walked down the garden, looking back at me as she did. Then, at a pile of timber, she stopped and growled. When she saw she had my attention she returned to the roof. I then searched under the timber and found the small black cat from over the road with my steak - half eaten.

This sequence of events may be coincidence, but it makes you think. Penthouse was accused and wanted to prove herself innocent, she could not have responded better if she could have spoken. I wonder if there are other readers who have similar stories of such human-animal communication ...! Penthouse has since moved in and is definitely her own person. However she waits every night at the gate and welcomes me home.

# CAT ADOPTION CENTRES

## A CPS Initiative

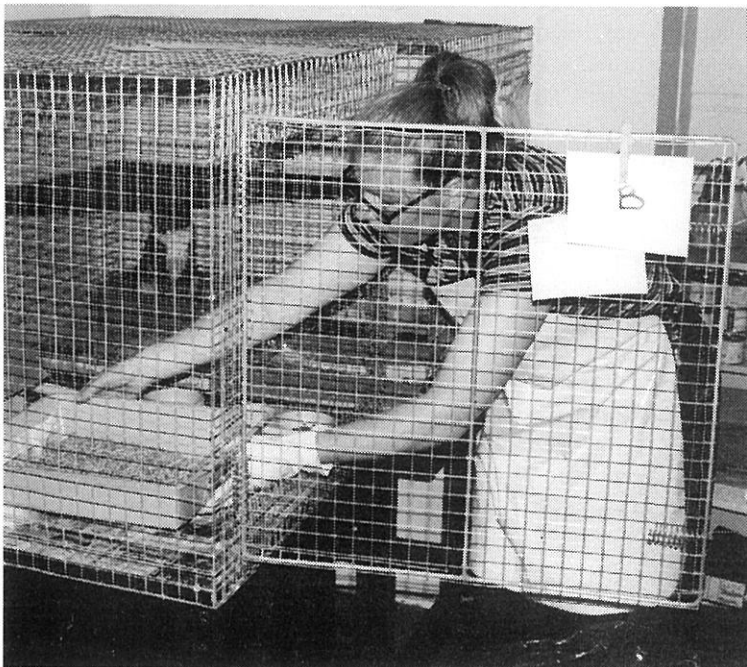
**So what is a Cat Adoption Centre?** The idea was conceived by Barbara Fougere and Danielle Parkinson who gained sponsorship from Whiskas to turn a number of veterinary practices across Sydney into places where people can adopt a desexed, microchipped, vaccinated and wormed feline. They approached the CPS as a possible source of kittens and cats. This approach was somewhat due to the outstanding success of the Concord Animal Hospital and East Chatswood Cat Clinic in finding so many homes for CPS kittens and adult cats in recent years.

At this stage all the hard work paid off with the launch of 10 Cat Adoption Centres during Pat-A-Cat week in the Sydney area. The CPS is currently supplying kittens and the occasional adult for adoption at all of the Cat Adoption Centres. This will certainly be beneficial to our aim of getting more desexed cats and kittens into homes.

On 2 October, 103 Enmore Road was transformed. Purple balloons festooned the office. We ran Name-That-Kitten and Guess-the-Number-of-Cat-Lollies and Pin-the-Tail-on-the-Cat contests. The event was hosted by Cat Adoption Centres and Judy Chapman wove her own special magic keeping the kids entertained.

We decided that our new image as a Cat Adoption Centre required a facelift both in the office area and the cat accommodation area. We invested in a small number of roomy two level cages where Mum can get out of the reach of demanding kittens. The office area benefited from a fresh coat of paint and improved lighting. All in all, it is really a positive transformation both for the staff who often work under stressful conditions, and our 'special needs' area where we can continue to raise kittens for homing and socialise timid ones.

Sophie Webb looking after her charges with the new two level cages.



## CAT ADOPTION CENTRES

Balmain Vet Hospital	9810 7544
Bondi Junction Vet Hospital	9389 8411
Croydon Park Vet Clinic	9716 0207
Drummoyne Vet Clinic	9719 2149
East Chatswood Cat Clinic	9417 6613
Mona Vale Vet Hospital	9999 2269
Paddington Cat Hospital	9380 6111
Sylvania Vet Hospital	9522 7088
Winston Hills Vet Clinic	9624 4111

### Plus our main cat adoption facilities

Concord Animal Hospital	9743 1715
Parkland Boarding Kennels	9626 9333

The Cat Protection Society's new perspex cage and photo backdrop donated by Whiskas sits in our front window. With one or two kitten adoptees playing inside, it proves to be a real showstopper and will be instrumental in helping increase cat placements in the coming years.





# INTRODUCTIONS

## Making Feline Friendships as Painless as Possible

Dr Kim Kendall  
East Chatswood Cat Clinic

Cats aren't keen on change (much like most people, really), and they are usually very unsubtle about indicating their displeasure. Introducing a new anything – from another pet, to another human to even new furniture – is a source of anxiety for the cat and the owner, so these are some strategies to help reduce the disruptions.

### INTRODUCING YOURSELF

This is the easiest one. This is achieved when your cat selects you, and you can be pretty sure it will be love at first sight. You new feline friend will quickly train you to their unique requirements, and most owners do not present any obstacles. In fact, it amazes me what owners will put up with from their cats – their feline dictator's training methods are obviously very effective!!

Remember - no cat ever changes – all that you can do is change the environment so the cat no longer shows the undesirable behaviour (this goes for spraying, scratching – posts, people, roaming, food, fetishes, etc.). Make your rules at the start, and be consistent. Cats are smart (smart enough to need anti-depressants!), but they have no way of associating something they did more than TWO SECONDS AGO with any kind of punishment. In fact, PUNISHMENT NEVER WORKS WITH CATS. All the feline stars of TV perform of their own free will, and it is the cameramen who make it look easy and directed!

### INTRODUCING ANOTHER PERSON

The main concept here is to let the cat make the first approach. This is important when bringing a cat into a new home or bringing a new person into the cat's home. They have to get the measure of the person, and they do that by smell, watching and listening. Remember that when a cat walks into a room, it knows (by smell especially) who is already there, who was there half an hour ago, and who is coming down the hall now. It is a lot of information to process, and if you rush it, you can unnerve the cat.

One of the reasons a cat likes someone who is allergic to or averse to cats is that they don't immediately stare at it or try to 'trap' it with a big hug. Give the cat a chance to 'take it or leave it' and NEVER look straight into a cat's eyes – that is a very confrontational thing to do in cat language.

### INTRODUCING A BABY (OR TODDLER)

This is a bit harder. Cats view babies and toddlers as different

species to adult humans. Remarkable perception, really, though a bit confusing now that cats are living longer and can see them grow up! The key is to supervise the cat's natural curiosity, while protecting the baby and the cat from each other's unexpected actions. Cats don't smother babies (that was the traditional explanation for SIDS deaths), and they get into the cots because it is SOFT, WARM and HIGH UP!! Provide a shelf with a view of what is going on nearby, and your cat will probably be happier there, as they are not big on the way babies move around in bed!

Most cats will keep their distance from babies and toddlers, and are usually more tolerant of handling. They will tolerate more things from a youngster than an adult – but always ensure they have an escape route to lessen their anxiety should the small human become too boisterous.

### INTRODUCING ANOTHER CAT

Cats don't really like other cats most of the time, so THIS CAN BE HARD!! A great deal depends on whether the resident cat/s have ever had a friendship with another cat, and depends on the age of both the resident and the new arrival. If the newcomer is a KITTEN, then isolating it in one room with its food, litter tray and toys for a few days (till the resident cat becomes Curious rather than Furious) works well. 'Towelling' the resident, then the newcomer, then the resident again mingles the smells and makes the new cat less 'strange'.

Once you open the door between them, DO NOT INTERRUPT THE HISSING AND SPITTING THAT IS BOUND TO HAPPEN. You can cause confusion, and cats can't apologise, so it will then take them much longer to figure out an amicable arrangement. Young cats (less than 6 months old) will usually bond quickly and permanently, older cats take longer and may take up to six months to sort out their 'timeshare' arrangements around the cosy spots of the house. It is rare for these confrontations to become lethal, or even to lead to a severe enough fight to cause damage.

Some cats, like some people, love everybody they meet, and will tolerate all kinds of change. However, as it is for most of us, First Impressions do Count, and done thoughtfully and respectfully, can reduce conflict.

How closely feline lives reflect our own!!

# DOZING CAT

Rays of sunshine  
Filter through lacy curtains  
Falling upon the sleek,  
Shiny coat of dozing cat.  
Awakened from peaceful slumber  
Paws stretched  
Claws protracted,  
Muscle by muscle  
Until satisfied.  
Looks of content pass  
His sleep-softened face  
Until he is once again asleep.

## RANDOM HARVEST

Several years ago, while visiting my parents in the bush, I came across a small black and white cat hunting near the fence at the end of their property. She could not contain her joy at finding me, rubbing back and forth against my legs and purring loudly. I pushed her away gently, hoping she would go on her way. Instead, she almost fell over. A stroke of my hand from head to tail revealed the sharp ridges of every vertebrae in her back. So, as she continued to rub against me, I considered my options. I already had three cats in my small flat and did not need another. But I couldn't leave her. Aside from being starved, she had obvious signs of infection. I developed a plan: I would take her home, fatten her up and find someone to take her.



I'd already decided to call her Sammy, and as I picked her up to take her home, I wondered how my cats, Stormy, Sooty and Patches, would react. I held her with one hand while I drove home. Once there, I carried her up to my flat and put her down just inside the kitchen door. Sammy panicked. She dashed full speed into the wall, then lunged straight into the door of the stove.

Captured and secured in the study, Sammy calmed down. Food, water, a litter box and a bed of towels made it home. Soon she was moving around

normally. I wondered if fear had caused her behaviour in the kitchen, or if the strange, shiny turquoise colour of her eyes was evidence that she could not see me. The next afternoon I took Sammy to my vet. The expression on his face when he saw her condition made me fear she was going to die. At that moment, I decided to keep Sammy for as long as she lived.

The vet determined that Sammy was about 6 months old and weighed only 1.5 kilos. He told me severe malnutrition had caused

cataracts to form on her eyes and that she could not see. An infection in her head was bad but could have been worse. Internal parasites were present. He went on to say that the damage to her eyes was permanent and that there was a good chance her health could be permanently affected.

Pills, shots, vitamins, good food and love were prescribed. After several weeks of pills and antibiotics, Sammy showed improvement. I released her from the study into the rest of the house. My other cats accepted her easily, having gotten used to her already. Just as she had explored and learned the layout of the study, Sammy now did the same in the rest of the house. I soon learned not to leave large objects in the middle of rooms nor to move furniture around if I did not want to feel guilty when Sammy discovered, the hard way, that something had been moved.

After a few head-on collisions with my legs, Sammy figured out that I don't stay in one spot like the furniture. She learned to tell by the sounds I make whether I am moving or standing still. Fortunately, her health does not seem to have suffered any lasting damage from the early malnutrition. She hasn't been sick since I brought her home to stay.

Two years ago, the four cats and I moved into a two-story house. Sammy needed just two days of exploring before she was home, moving easily from room to room and up and down the stairs. No place Sammy can reach with her paws by standing on her hind legs is off limits. She leaps from a chair to the countertop for her daily snack and is always the first to know a window has been opened. Finding the litter box has never been a problem for her, and she unerringly locates company and their laps. First time visitors always ask, "Which one is the blind one?"

Full of quiet affection for all, with the freedom to do all she is capable of, Sammy is a vital, active member of my multi-cat household.

## You know when your cat is in charge when .....

.. you leave the heater on all day during the cold months so the cats don't feel the cold while you are at work.

.. you learn to sleep in contortionist positions so you don't wake puss who is sleeping between your legs or under your arm.

.. they sit directly in front of the heater or fan so you don't get any benefit from warmth or cool.

.. you postpone going to the loo to avoid disturbing the cat sleeping peacefully on the loo lid.

.. you move your head off the pillow because your cat wants to sleep there.

.. you don't eat dinner (or change the channel) because you don't want to disturb the cat sleeping on your lap.

.. you go to bed and try to fit your body between all the cats.

.. the house is littered with cat toys but you can't resist another.





# SHARON ANDERSON

Artist - Screenprinter



I have always loved visual art, from a small child painting and drawing to now. As an adult, my art is a major part of my life.

I have to admit that, apart from my daughter and husband, I don't think life would be quite the same without my three cats. I obviously have a deep affection for cats and they are a continuous source of inspiration in my art. I have found it impossible to ignore their special qualities, habits and, of course, their individual personalities.

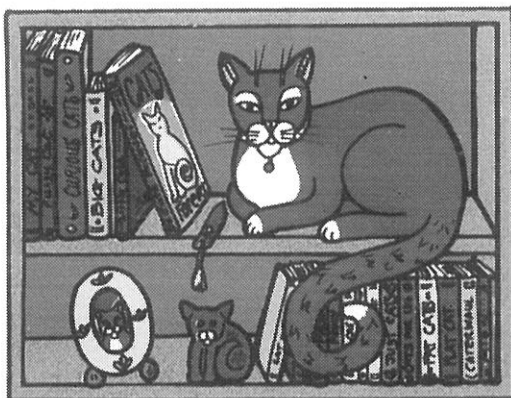


After my black and white companion died tragically in 1989, I began creating artworks featuring her and my obsession with cats in

art has increased since then. I create artworks featuring cats in many different mediums such as pastel, clocks, mirrors, bookbinding, and screen printing, which is my main medium. I hand print frames, T-shirts, greeting cards and glass plates.

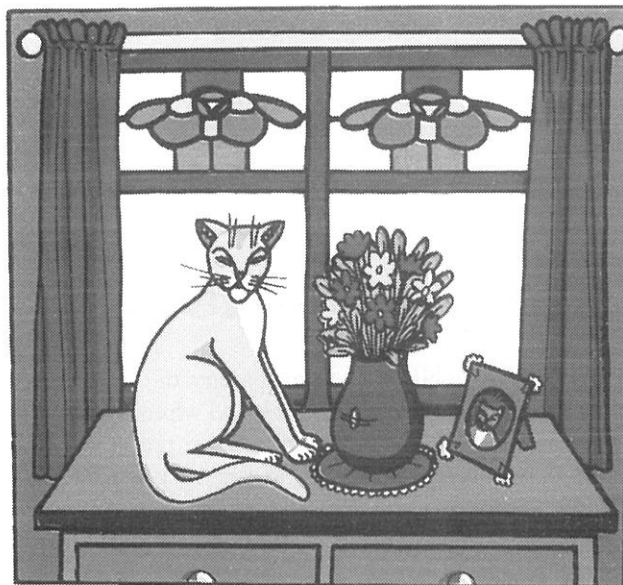
My 'Contented Cats' range of prints are full of colour featuring purple, blue and crimson cats! These whimsical cats in bed, on verandahs, on the bookshelf and in paper bags are all inspired by my own three cats. I think you need to own a cat to know what cheeky and endearing things they get up to. You also need to be well loved by a cat to really understand just what my pictures are all about. I am presently collaborating with another artist to create printed glass platters, featuring cats, of course. As far as we know we are the only artists in Australia printing onto glass.

Unfortunately this artist is not a true cat lover but his wife is, so hopefully she will convert him in time. It can be done. I converted my husband and each of our cats now have their own person



they prefer to get cuddly with. Well, I must admit I can't take all the credit as 'his' cat is very strong willed in all matters and I don't think he could have lasted too long as a non-cat person

anyway. I also don't think we will ever own a dog.



My 9 year old daughter seems to be taking after me in the art field. She and I designed a new range of cats which feature on glass plants and T-shirts. I am best known locally (Latrobe Valley, Victoria), as the 'Cat Lady', and my studio is decorated outside with brightly coloured Trompe l'oeil cats which the local dogs constantly bark at, or so I'm told by their owners. This seems to prove how easily fooled dogs are! Try and fool a cat with a painted dog and it would be quite a different story.



I am continually working on new designs and I have found it amazing how cat lovers appear when there are cat collectibles in sight. My artworks can be found in the **Craftsman's Collection, Canberra City Centre; The House of Australian Craft, Jimboomba Qld; Expressions Gallery, Armadale, Victoria.** I am also at the **Australian Craft Show in Sydney in November.**

# COMBATING A FEARFUL FELINE

Fearful behaviour is normal for cats and most other domestic species because it protects them until they grow older and learn to distinguish between real dangers and the normal hustle and bustle of life. If cats were born with no inhibitions and approached everything and everyone with wild abandon, they soon would be in grave danger of extinction. Even though cats have been domesticated for thousands of years, each cat must still go through an introductory period of socialisation with people before gaining the confidence necessary to live with us.

The most sensitive period for socialisation occurs during the kitten's first 4 to 7 weeks. This period is when kittens most easily develop attachments with us and with members of their own species and other species. After this period, the ability to develop a trusting relationship with members of any species rapidly declines. If the kitten has had no human contact before it reaches 12 weeks of age, it is unlikely that the cat will ever comfortably live with humans.

*Desensitisation is exposing the cat to small amounts of the stimuli in an amount below the threshold or intensity that causes fear.*

Besides socialisation, cats also need to learn about the non-living things they will encounter in their lives. If they have a secluded, protected kittenhood, chances are they may freak out when exposed to such items as vacuum cleaners, doorbells, etc. It is the cat's protective, instinctive behaviour to avoid anything unknown that results in fearful behaviour. Fear of people is a common fearful problem in cats. This appears often in poorly socialised animals, particularly strays or semi feral cats. The most important thing to guard against is going too fast in attempting to socialise a fearful cat with people. Unfortunately, people with good intentions often make matters worse by forcing the cat to interact with them or others.

To reduce the cat's fear, identify all things that make the cat anxious, then prevent the cat from being exposed to those stimuli. Fearful behaviours tend to worsen and become more resistant to change as the number of fearful experiences increases. Most stimuli that need to be controlled are obvious. Fast movements, loud noises and touching the cat are common stimuli that need to be reduced or avoided.

Reaching toward a fearful cat is a threatening gesture – so threatening that it will keep a fearful animal away from a tasty bit of food in an outstretched hand. When a cat is afraid of people, avoid steady, prolonged eye contact, a fear-evoking stimulus. For the cat to feel safe, it should have an avenue of escape so it doesn't feel trapped, and a dark, quiet refuge should be available. In most cases, it is best to initially ignore the cat as much as possible.

Reducing a cat's fear level involves several considerations. First, try to identify what is causing the fear reaction. It does not take an

situations. Only one frightening experience is necessary, and it can be as simple as a stranger trying to lift the cat at the same time a clap of thunder or loud noise accidentally occurs. The cat may generalise from that experience to all similar situations. In such cases, the fear reaction is almost impossible to determine so you must deal with its outward symptoms.

Next, identify the amount or intensity of the stimuli required to cause a fearful reaction. Know what makes the cat afraid and the minimum amount of stimuli needed to make the cat begin to act fearful. Once you have determined these parameters, desensitisation and counter-conditioning exercises can begin.

Desensitisation exposes the cat to a small amount of the stimulus, an amount below the threshold or intensity that causes fear. Gradually increase the amount of stimulus. To counter-condition, have the cat learn a response to a stimulus that is more positive than the present fear. In other words, replace a fearful response with a calm, relaxed response. By teaching the cat to accept a tasty treat or engage in play instead of being afraid when people are near, we have counter-conditioned it.

You can't just stick food in a cat's face. Place the treat of food at a safe distance. If the cat is comfortable until someone approaches to within 10 feet of it, food must be made available to it from a distance of 11 feet or more. If the cat remains in its hiding room, food may be placed on the floor outside the door to the room. The person can then move to 11 feet away and sit quietly, avoiding eye contact. Gradually offer the food

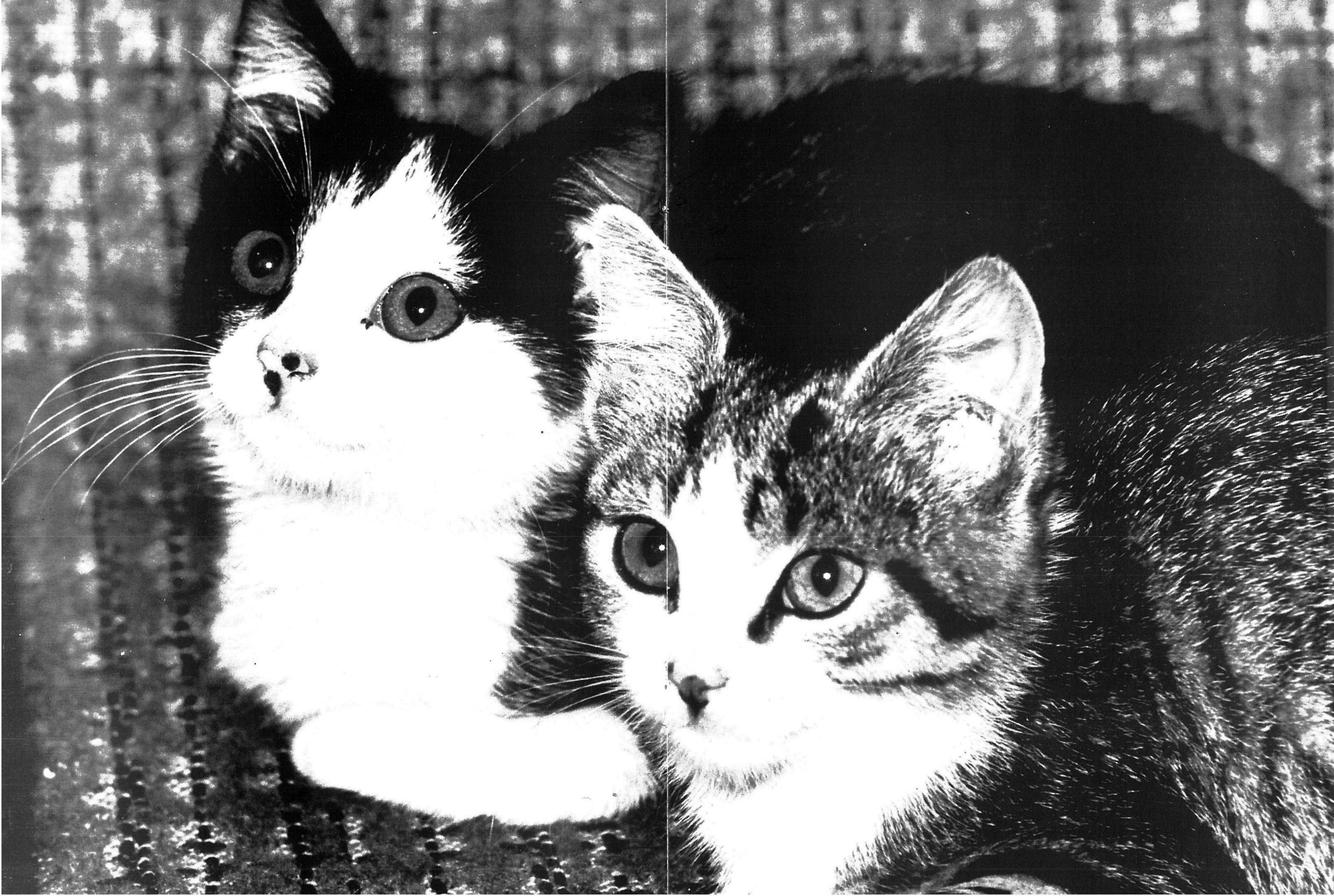
at a closer distance. Patience is the most important part of treating these cats.

For cats afraid of specific things in their environment, the treatment approach is similar. For example, a cat might fear the vacuum cleaner no matter where in the house it is being operated. Because the cat is always afraid when the cleaner is running, we are unable to get it far enough away to give food for relaxed behaviour. So we must improvise in controlling the stimulus.

First, leave the cleaner in the centre of the room at all times for the first few days or weeks. When the cat is near it, give the cat a food treat. Next, slowly move the vacuum around the room, and give food for non-anxious behaviour. Finally, dampen the sound by wrapping a heavy towel around the chassis and turning it on for a split second when the cat is as far away as possible in the house. Gradually leave the vacuum on for longer periods. Provide food or play when the cat exhibits non-anxious behaviour and withhold food treats at all other times. The goal is for the cat to learn that the vacuum is no threat and that it should look forward to having it around because good things happen for the cat then.

Most cats can be treated for fearful behaviour if the stimuli can be discovered, reduced and gradually presented to the cat during desensitisation and counter-conditioning exercises. The key for a successful outcome is patience, patience, and more patience. Take the time necessary to get the job done without pushing the cat into anxious situations. Lastly, to prevent problems, begin providing adequate socialisation for kittens at a young age.









### **TWIGGY, ELSA, MISSEY & BAM**

In memory of my beloved cats.  
Susette Fleming

### **MACIUSZEK**

My beloved companion for almost 10 years.  
Krystyna Zawadska

### **PEARL**

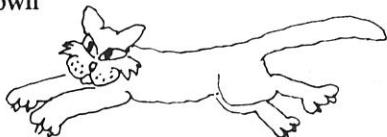
In memory of our sweet cat Pearl. Because she was black and white, I named her Pearl. When she came to our knowledge Pearl was very young, abandoned, pregnant and scouring backyards, frantic for food.

Of course we adopted her and she found a sheltered corner in the garden to give birth to 3 lovely kittens. We are eternally grateful to Mrs Iredale and her wonderful work for the Cat Protection Society. Mrs Iredale met me at the Concord Veterinary Hospital, took care of the beautiful little kittens and found homes for them. Pearl was desexed and came home the next day to take an important place in our family.

As she grew older she could no longer climb her favourite old frangipani tree, but she had her permanent eating place, a warm place to sleep and enjoyed her life over the years as our much loved pet. Pearl died peacefully on Saturday morning, 8 May, 1999, aged 17 years. She will always stay in our memory. We thank Mrs Iredale and Cat Protection Society for their help in our time of crisis.  
Betty and Heather Bell

### **PETER**

In loving memory of Peter; a very brave little man whom I miss so much. Bye for now, sweetheart, I'll always love you.  
Mummy  
L Brown



# *Remembrance*



### **CHARLIE**

Charlie, our beautiful ginger tabby cat died 22 February, aged 12 years. He was a great friend and companion to us and we miss him very much. This is a portrait I painted of Charlie a few years ago.  
Barbara Dahl

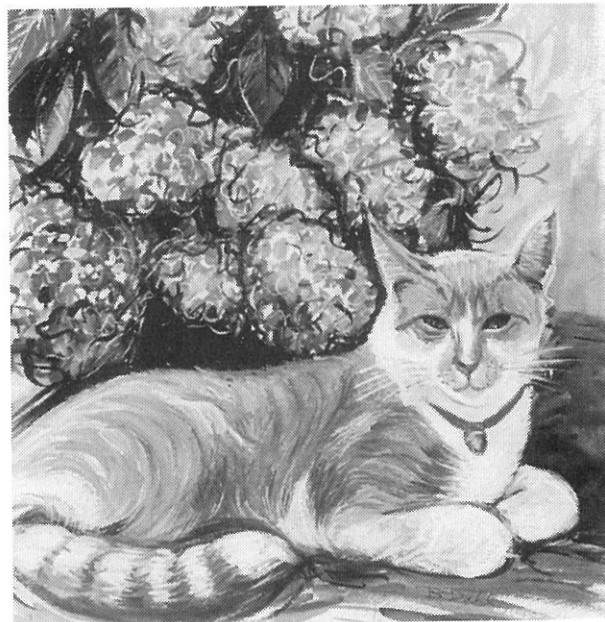
### **MUFFY (MIDAS)**

04-10-88 to 22-08-96

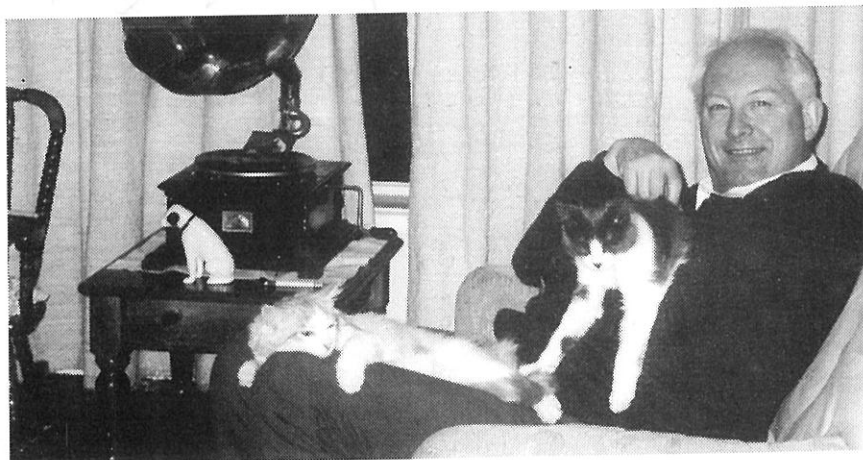
The day that you left my world; a piece of my heart went with you.  
Everyday I think of you and place fresh flowers in your shrine.  
You lived up to the name of Midas, as your touch turned everybody's heart to gold.  
You filled my life with so much joy;  
I still cannot accept you're gone; but never from my heart.

You were a true fighter in the final days of your life -  
May God give me the courage to be as strong as you were as I still hurt.  
I will always love you Muffy, and no words can say how much I still miss you, and the pain that's still in my heart.

Rachael Konrad



Brian Dashwood with his two recently acquired toys a.k.a. the two kittens. The kittens were born in the garage at home and being a sucker for things which are cute, fluffy and go 'meow', Dad refused to give them away. (Gemma Dashwood)



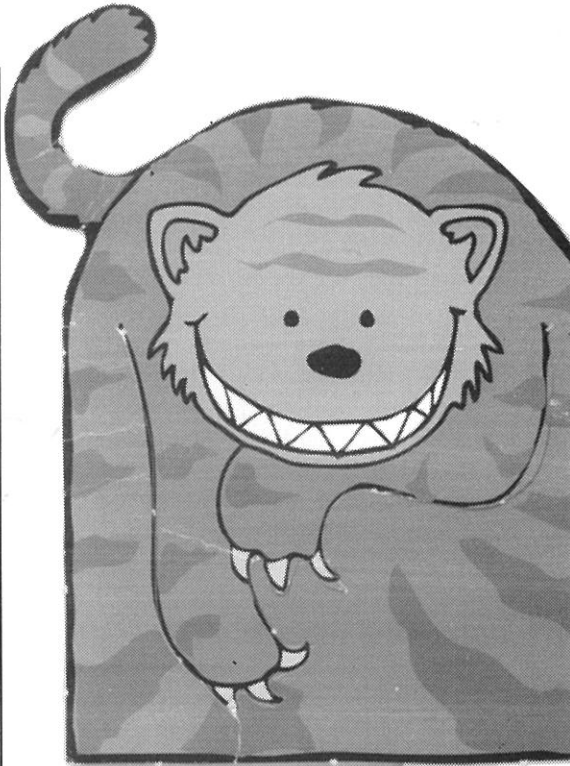
# ALLEY CAT KIDS

**Hi Kids!!!** Hello again. Here at the CPS we have been very busy finding homes for many cats and kittens. During September the society office underwent renovations. One of the main aims was to provide better accommodation facilities for our feline visitors. We now have larger cages with sleeping platforms, and very happy cats!! In October the CPS launched the Cat Adoption Centres, a Sydney wide network of vets working with the CPS. This means that with their help we will be able to re-home many more cats than ever before. To help us reduce the numbers of kittens please encourage your friends to have their cat desexed. We hope you enjoy your page. *Have a great Christmas!*

## ANSWERS TO LAST ISSUE'S CROSSWORD ACROSS

- 3. Persian
- 6. Lion
- 8. Nine lives
- 11. Spey
- 12. Tom
- 13. Claws
- 14. Cheetah
- 15. Purr

- ## DOWN
- 1. Feral 2. Cats and dogs
  - 4. Sphinx
  - 5. Kitten
  - 7. Microchip
  - 9. Bell
  - 10. Litter



Why don't cats like small spaces???

*Because they suffer from clawstriphobia!!!!*

## DID YOU KNOW.....

Ancient Egyptian people loved cats so much that if their cat died they shaved off their eyebrows?

They also were executed if they injured a cat, even if it recovered!!!!

## MAKE A BOOK MARK FOR CHRISTMAS!!!

Colour in the cat and draw in the whiskers and paws. (You could decorate your bookmark with glitter or tinsel to make it really festive!!) Next, glue your cat onto a piece of stiff cardboard. Ask Mum or Dad to cut out the cat and around the arms. This part sits over the page and marks your place in your book. You could even photocopy the cat and make some bookmarks for your friends!!

Mousy  
Christmas  
and a  
Catnip New  
year!!!





# CAT DIARY

DAY 752 - My captors continue to taunt me with bizarre little dangling objects. They dine lavishly on fresh meat while I am forced to eat dry cereal. The only thing that keeps me going is the hope of escape, and the mild satisfaction I get from ruining the occasional piece of furniture. Tomorrow I will eat another plant.

DAY 761 - Today my attempt to kill my captors by weaving around their feet while they were walking almost succeeded, must try this at the top of the stairs. In an attempt to disgust and repulse these vile oppressors, I once again induced myself to vomit on their favourite chair.. must try this on their bed.

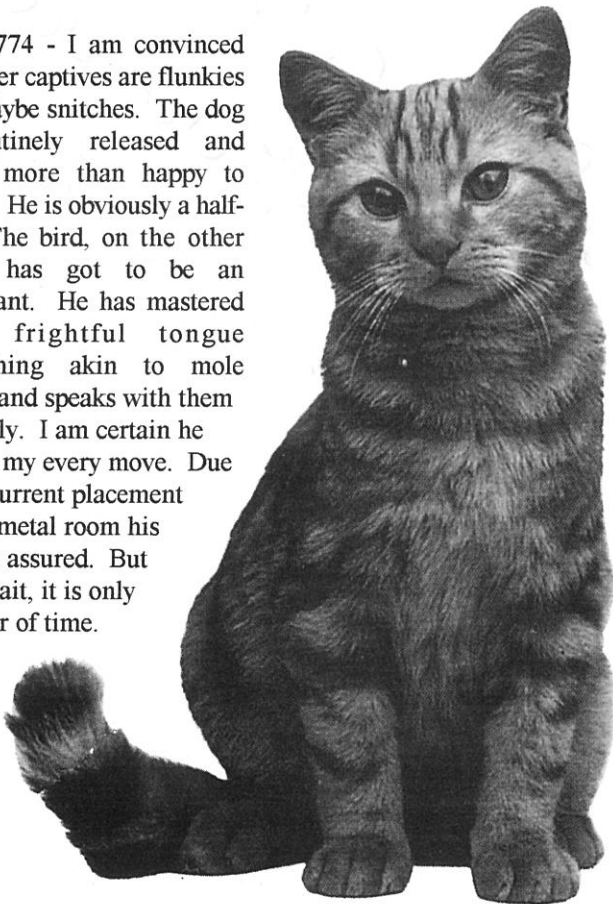
Slept all day so that I could annoy my captors with sleep depriving, incessant pleas for food at ungodly hours of the night.

DAY 765 - Decapitated a mouse and brought them the headless body in an attempt to make them aware of what I am capable of and to strike fear into their hearts. They only cooed and condescended about what a good little cat I was. Hmmmm .... not working according to plan....

DAY 768 - I am finally aware of how sadistic they are. For no good reason I got the Water Torture with a burning chemical called 'Shampoo'. What sick minds could invent such a liquid. My only consolation is the piece of thumb stuck between my teeth.

DAY 771 - There was a gathering of their accomplices. I was placed in Solitary. However, I could hear the noise and smell the foul odour of the glass tubes they call 'beer'. More importantly, I overheard that my confinement was due to MY power of 'allergies'. Must learn what this is and how to use it to advantage.

DAY 774 - I am convinced the other captives are flunkies and maybe snitches. The dog is routinely released and seems more than happy to return. He is obviously a half-wit. The bird, on the other hand, has got to be an informant. He has mastered their frightful tongue (something akin to mole speak) and speaks with them regularly. I am certain he reports my every move. Due to his current placement in the metal room his safety is assured. But I can wait, it is only a matter of time.



## You know your cat is in charge when.....

- .. you have one piece of chicken left and you give it to the cats.
- .. you cannot type Cat Affairs copy because your cat is settled between you and the keyboard with her head on your wrist.
- .. you make sure there is plenty of cat food and litter in the house, but you forget to ensure you have supplies for yourself.
- .. you have a vet appointment, it is raining, so the umbrella goes over the carry cage and you get soaked.
- .. you wake up at 5 am after going to bed at 3 am to give the cats their breakfast on time.
- .. you let the answering machine pick up the messages rather than disturb the sleeping cats on your lap.
- .. you tell the kids to close their mouths when eating only to hear the cats going crunch, crunch, crunch, smack, smack, smack, then hear your husband say, 'And you complain about us being noisy!'
- .. you are sweltering in 30 degree heat but you let your cats sleep on your lap.
- .. three of them are on your lap, the remote is out of your reach and you watch some abysmal program because you won't disturb them to the channel.
- .. you have to close yourself in the bathroom to eat - one person can't fight off several 'starving' cats and eat too.
- .. when you are trying to fill out an important form or read the newspaper, that is the only place the cat wants to sleep.
- .. you feel guilty for not giving them more ham from your sandwich.
- .. you go to sleep sitting up in your bed because a cat has gone to sleep in your lap.
- .. you put an unused section of loo paper in the toilet and then flush when you really don't need to because your cat got there too late to watch the swirling water.
- .. you can't close the dresser drawer because your cat got in the drawer and is having a nap on your good sweaters.
- .. you go searching for a comb and all you can find are flea combs.
- .. your feet freeze on the cold tiles as you dry yourself because the cat is occupying all of the bath mat.
- .. the cat approaches you with a pitiful meow and a guilt producing stare just as you are leaving so you stay another few moments for pats and cuddles and be late rather than disappoint the feline in your life.

# IMPURRFECTIONS

Kathleen Fernandes

My relationship with next door's cat Biddy began in a furious fashion after her ruthless attack on my cat Emily. Whenever I chased this odious tormentor she always made sure that she had the last word with glares and spits and hurls of abuse. These spats continued until poor Emily died.

Days after Emily's death, Biddy, with a defiant gleam in her eye, dared to enter my garden. She had no shame. Why couldn't she leave me to grieve in peace?

I tried to ignore her and even chased her once or twice, but eventually I grew used to her visits, her unexpected appearances. Our kinship was established tentatively with a pat and a tickle beneath her chin. She also enjoyed me combing her short dark fur. Recently, she got into the habit of bringing me gifts; the occasional rat, mouse and a decapitated baby possum. I attempt to discourage her but she doesn't seem to understand that I can do without her gifts, her little surprises. Maybe it's her way of apologising for all those times when she'd attacked Emily, although I doubt whether she suffered any serious remorse.

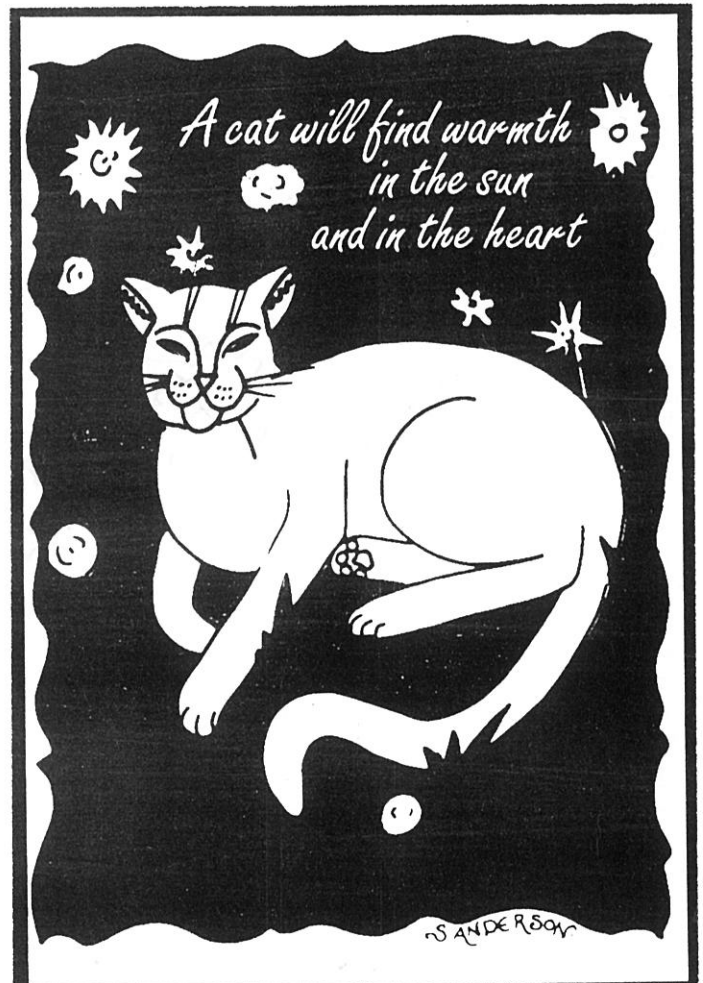
I was busy working, or at least trying to work, on my novel, an historical romance. I could do without these interruptions and was already behind schedule. It was all Biddy's fault. Or was I only making excuses? Writing romance was something that I could never get enthusiastic about... all that ardour and swooning became so tedious, so excessive. I was only doing it because I needed the money; mounting bills and, of course, the rent. It was getting to the point where I couldn't even discuss the novel with my agent before Biddy started demanding attention. To avoid friction I would sneak about the house, making the least noise possible, although I could never fool her. She knew all my movements.

Once she disappeared. I was worried, especially when her owners accused me of cat-napping. That night I discovered her asleep inside my toolshed on some sacks behind a chest of drawers. A tin of paint was spilled and several brushes were scattered across the floor. No guesses as to who was responsible. But Biddy never listened when I'd tell her that I 've got more to do than play her silly games.

As weeks evolved into months, Biddy became an almost permanent guest, only returning to her home for her main course. Cheese is her favourite appetiser and she can't wait to snatch it. I'm tired of telling her that it is unladylike to snatch .. but I'm afraid the word dainty doesn't even enter her vocabulary.

For some obscure reason Biddy has an intense dislike of outsiders, she even hisses at the postman. On Sundays whenever friends and I relax in the garden, she deliberately turns her back and mumbles to herself. I'd invent all kinds of excuses for her hostile behaviour. 'But she's not even your cat and Emily was never like that', friends would remark. I'm sure they thought the situation was most peculiar. Why was I allowing this cat to control me?

As Biddy wound herself around my legs it came to me. 'I've got an idea', I said to her, 'What if I write about you?' She stopped weaving and blinked. 'Yes, I'll write about you and forget about that novel. I was having trouble with it anyway. I could begin the story with the day you went missing, throw in a possum or two, with heads attached, of course.' Biddy gave me a self-satisfied smile and then began to wash herself.



Feature Artist: Sharon Anderson, refer article page 10

# LITTER -

## The crux of cat ownership

Nothing has made cats such a welcome addition to our lives as the discovery and marketing of one of life's most basic substances .... kitty litter. Regardless of whether your cat has the finest pedigree in the world or various portions of the finest pedigrees in the world, all domesticated cats need the litter tray.

But cat litter is a relatively new product. For generations cats performed their humble chores in the great out-of-doors or stunk up a container of sand or soil, before tracking it on the floor. A spell of bad weather changed all that. In January 1947 a cold spell froze a sand pile in Cassopolis, Michigan, making it impossible for a local to freshen her cat's toilet. Frustrated, she went to a neighbour's building supply business for some construction grade sand until the weather improved. Instead of sand, Ed Lowe, the owner, supplied her with a bag of industrial absorbent to try in the cat box. The dried ground clay worked so well that soon Lowe was supplying all the cat owners in the neighbourhood with the product he named Kitty Litter.

Ed Lowe's alternative became the first commercially marketed cat box filler and changed the lives of cats and owners everywhere, as well as substantially increasing his bank balance. Today, in the States, cat litter has become a \$710 million dollar annual business with new brands and types coming on the market yearly. It seems everything is being tried from the original attapulgit to wood shavings, wood products, corn cobs, lucerne pellets, newspaper pellets, rabbit food, processed rice hulls, fruit peels, grass, and who knows what in the coming years.

### **So how are these products transformed to urine absorbing, scent reducing fillers?**

The base product must meet two important criteria. First, it has to be readily and cheaply available to ensure the product will be affordable. It must also have a high absorbency rate. Clay based litters 90% share of the market demonstrate their capabilities.

Clay is a combination of aluminium silicates and minerals and is considered a non-metallic mineral. The exact composition of the clay controls its absorbency, density and odour control. Thus some clays make better litter than others. Light coloured clays are used more successfully for litter as darker clays break down and become muddy when wet. Often a company making litter may combine various types of clay to get a product that meets the needs of absorption and odour control. Different types of clay end up as different end products – such as the large granules of a standard clay litter against the finer granules of a clumping type litter.

To form clumps, litter must be very absorbent and clays that naturally clump when moistened are chosen. Refining the product to form smaller granules also aids the clumping reaction. Less absorbent clays can be combined with more absorbent ingredients to create clumping litters. It is important for the owner to read the instructions on the containers of clumping litters as some cannot

be flushed down the loo without causing problems in the pipes. The flushability of the various brands of clumping litter should be clearly stated on the container.

### **Odour Control**

Okay, so processed litter provides a handy place for a cat to poo – but high on the list of necessities is odour control. Who wants that scent wafting through the house just as company arrives, or even personally living with it. Odour control is a top concern for manufacturers and buyers alike and in itself becomes the most expensive part of the product. The substances that cause odour must break down before they start to smell. Urea, a compound in urine, degrades into ammonia and other odours start when waste is oxidised by contact with the air. Some clay types naturally control odour better than others. The higher the absorption rate of a clay, the more odour it is able to control but no matter how good the product, more help is needed to keep odours under control.

Formalin type products conceal the smell for humans. It is still there but just not apparent to us. Most manufacturers use some kind of perfume to mask the odours or products that change the odour into another physical or chemical form. Other types of additives are designed to prevent bacteria from growing initially and thus controlling odour before it even starts.

In today's manufacturing terms, it can take several years and several million dollars outlay for research to create a new litter. Not only is scent control paramount, but as living space gets smaller, dust and tracking are important to minimize or eliminate. And another tough hurdle is feline acceptance. No point creating the greatest litter in the world if the family cat won't use it. This is why some of the manufacturers maintain colonies of test cats to evaluate product improvements. Products are tested by consumers, one manufacturer has a team of trained 'sniffers' with very acute senses of smell to check their litter's ability. One American manufacturer actually makes artificial cat urine because so much is needed to run the various tests needed to work on their product.

### **From the Ground to the Bag...**

Processing clay litter is fairly standard for most litter companies. The clay is usually 30-40 feet below the surface and extracted from large open pits with earth movers. At this stage it is about 35% moisture and is trucked to the plant where conveyor belts carry the clay to giant crushers. The smaller pieces are then conveyed to a kiln where the moisture is reduced to about 6%. The kiln is more like a huge, long, horizontal sewer pipe. As the kiln rotates the baking clay is tumbled as it travels the length of the dryer in temperatures about 900 degrees C. The hardness of the final product depends on the temperature and the length of the drying time within the tunnel.

The cooling clay emerges from the kiln and is fed into a second crusher that takes hand sized lumps and crushes them to the final



useable sized granules. These are processed through various sieves to separate the differing sizes and remixed in a ratio that allows the litter the maximum absorption. Litter of only one size is less absorbent than litter containing a range of granule sizes.

Because clay is reasonably fragile, any rubbing together of the granules creates dust – which is a problem in homes. So manufacturers turn once again to more processes or additives to minimise or remove the dust to make their product more acceptable to the market place, to their fastidious feline end users and to the homemaker who has to live with and clean up the mess.

## **TYPES OF LITTER**

### **Woodshavings**

Woodshavings is the most economical litter but it has drawbacks. Assuming that you are allowed to collect shavings yourself, it is cheaper than chips but it has little odour control and tracks badly. One trip to the litter tray can have shavings decorating the entire house – as well as the fur of a long haired cat. Wood shavings are best used outside. Shavings can contain a lot of dust so it is important to choose shavings that are as dust free as possible. There is no odour control beyond the qualities of the wood itself but assuming the litter tray is changed very regularly, odour would not be a great problem. It is also a good idea to put newspapers in the bottom of the trays to help absorb urine and make the tray easier to clean by simply rolling up the used litter and bagging it.

**Note: Sawdust should NEVER be used.** Cats sniff litter and in doing so can inhale the tiny particles, causing breathing problems. It is also far too easy to lodge in their eyes.

### **Processed wood products**

Waste products from the timber industry are being recycled to make alternative cat litters. Sawdust and bark are finely ground, heated in a kiln type vat where the natural resin binds the particles. The hot material is extruded through a screen to create small pellets which are cooled and packaged. The product is light in weight and the natural timber scent controls odours.

### **Clay litters**

Economical, bulky, odour controls, some tracking, high absorption rate, readily available. The clay particles can hurt sensitive paws, causing the cat to seek a more amenable area for his toilet. For those who show cats, many halls request that clay litters not be used as they can damage hardwood floors when stepped on. Most clay litters are touted as being able to be disposed of in the garden but I have yet to come across a garden expert who considers this viable. Unless your property is large enough to have a dump area away from the house where the used litter can stay untouched while rain and weather wash away the ammonia, nurserymen do not recommend emptying the trays in your flower beds.

### **Clumping litters**

These highly processed litters have entered the Australian market in the past few years to a growing clientel. They are not the cheapest fillers but they are far less bulky and, in some cases, much easier to handle and dispose of than the more traditional and newer ecological types. The clumps can be flushed down the loo (assuming your system can cope) and it is easier to keep the box clean as the waste is 'clumped' and does not disperse. However, it does track and, if not properly tended, can be very messy. But in homes where space is at a premium and the dollar cost is not critical, it can provide a satisfactory alternative.

## **Paper**

In trying to use the enormous stockpile of second hand newspaper, manufacturers have created a newspaper based litter. Paper is extremely absorbent and it is ground, processed, repulped, de-inked, screened and extruded into pellets, dried and bagged. It makes a useable product that is bio-degradable and can weigh 40% less than standard litters. When paper is recycled, the longer fibres go back into making more paper while the short fibres end up in the cat's loo.

## **Grain**

Much as sugar cane growers are getting a harvest bonus by processing the tops of the cane plants for garden mulch, so other grain growers are converting waste products from their produce to contain the waste products from our pets. An all-wheat litter is made by grinding the hard grains to the proper texture. The hardness of the kernel and the gluten content are most important to make the litter clump. Some odour controlling additives are added, even occasionally some catnip to give it more feline appeal. When the enzymes in the wheat mix with cat waste, it neutralizes the odour naturally.

## **Rice**

Rice growers are also taking advantage of the useability of the non-edible parts of their harvest and producing a natural cat litter from rice hulls.

## **Corncobs and Citrus**

Two American litters are made from recycled corncobs and citrus peels. The Corncobs are ground, heated and processed into pellets. The product has a moist soil-like texture that appeals to some cats. The litter weighs half as much as clay but has twice the volume and absorbs five times more than clay and will clump.

Citrus litter is made by using waste from the fruit industry. Peels from dejuiced citrus are processed, then dried in large natural-gas fired kilns. This reduces the raw material from 85% moisture to 10% moisture, which allows it to absorb up to 4 times its weight in liquid. There is a residual acid left in the dried peel that neutralises urea so there is no odour from the cat's urine. It is flushable, totally biodegradable and it even gives off a little citrus fragrance when moisture hits it.

## **Grass**

Litter from grasses has been on the Australia market for years. The base material is put into a grinding machine that chops the grasses into tiny pieces, which are transported pneumatically to a pelleting process. Pellets are made to a specific hardness so they won't disintegrate when wet, they simply slough off in layers, which extends the longevity of the product. The pellets are autoclaved to kill mould and mildew and vacuumed to remove dust prior to bagging. It ties up nitrogen and controls odour naturally without any chemical additives and it is biodegradable.

Man's ingenuity and his cat's needs are pushing the frontiers of litter box fillers past the imagination and onto retail shelves. Those who poo-poo the value of felines should take note of the money they are adding to the gross national product, as well as the jobs they are creating as a major industry increases to cater to the second most basic item of all feline needs. Surely this has to be one of the world's great recycling industries. And isn't it great that cats are the cause of it.

# You know your cat is in charge when.....

.. you would rather deal with all the cat routines than the human relationships around you.

.. you look at your pillow and wonder where you are going to put your head because the cat is sleeping there.

.. you cannot throw out the old pizza box that is taking up space on the counter because the cats love to sleep in it.

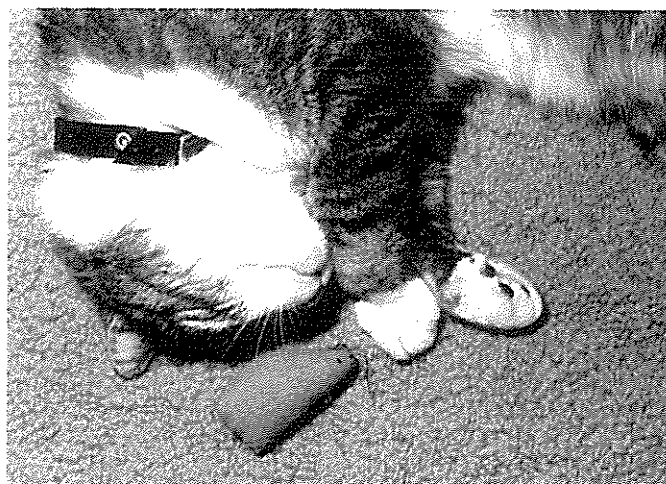
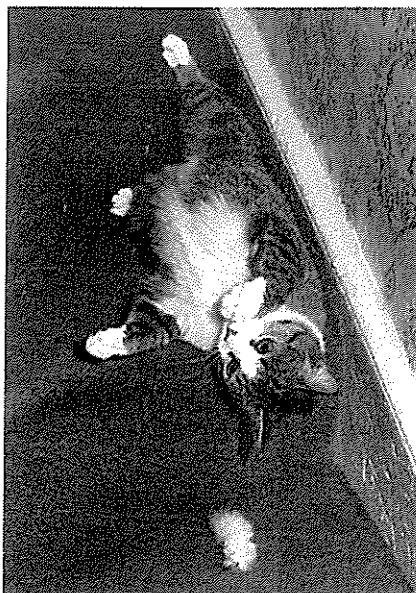
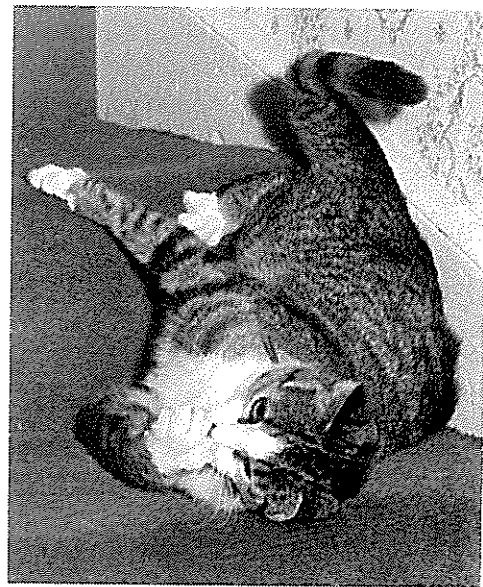
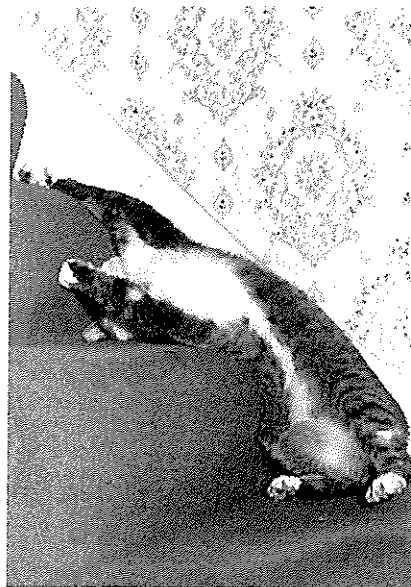
.. you sit in an uncomfortable chair with a bad view of the TV because the cats are adorably asleep in your favourite chair.

.. you can't leave the house until you have checked on each of them and advised them when you will return.

.. you leave bits of scrunched up paper on the floor because the cats love playing with it.

.. you hear the sound of a cat vomiting, you glance over to make sure it isn't over your slippers, roll over and go back to sleep.

.. you stand up to work at the computer because the cat is sleeping on the chair.



*Fun!!!*

*But Exhausting!!!*

*Photographer: Derek Blew*



# DONATION FORM

The Membership Secretary, The Cat Protection Society of NSW,  
103 Enmore Road, ENMORE NSW 2042 Ph (02) 9557-1011, 9519-7201

I/We would like to make a donation to the Society. Enclosed is a cheque/money order/ for  
DONATION \$.....

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms .....  
Surname (Block letters) Initials

Address ..... Suburb ..... Post Code.....

## FORM OF BEQUEST

To persons who wish to assist our Society, the following forms of bequest are suggested:

Where a specific amount of money or a specific asset is to be bequeathed the form would be:

I (insert full name and address) give and bequeath to the Cat Protection Society of NSW, the registered office of which is 103 Enmore Road, Enmore, NSW 2042, the sum of .....dollars (or a complete description of the asset).

I direct that the receipt of the Treasurer for the time being of the said The Cat Protection Society of NSW shall be sufficient discharge for the legacy which is to be applied to the general purposes of the said charity.

Where a bequest involves the residue of an estate, the wording would be:

I, (insert full name and address) give and bequeath all the rest and residue of my estate of whatsoever kind and wheresoever situate to The Cat Protection Society of NSW, the registered office of which is 103 Enmore Road, Enmore, NSW 2042. And I declare that the receipt of the Treasurer for the time being of the said The Cat Protection Society of NSW shall be a sufficient discharge to my executors.

For further information on leaving a bequest to the Society please contact the Secretary on (02) 9557 1011.

## RESCUED

A distressing call from a concerned person came through to the office early one Monday morning. The caller had noticed a plastic bag full of kittens in a garbage bin in Newtown. When our welfare officer, Jenny Saba, investigated, she found 5 perfectly black kittens around 5 weeks old. We were horrified that someone could have dumped this litter in such a callous way when our office was less than 200m from the bin, but also pleased that the kittens were uninjured and quite active. Frances, our carer, took them under her wing and found them to be delightful companions. The only problem being that it is impossible to tell them apart!!

## ANOTHER CPS SUCCESS STORY

Bunny was being fed by someone who had never handled her beyond a quick pat. She came to us very fearful, with great golden eyes and a hesitant manner. Every time she was taken out of her cage she would embed her claws into our shoulders, clutching grimly in fear of everything and everyone around her - and particularly open spaces.

After a few weeks of regular meals and handling, Bunny decided it was time to join the human race. She underwent a complete transformation. She started purring every time we picked her up and nestling in when we had her on our laps. Believe me, it's a difficult thing typing with a purring cat trying to add a few comments of her own! It was as though she had renounced her old independent lifestyle forever.

Bunny went to a home in Petersham where her new owners are absolutely delighted with their extremely affectionate cat.

## BOOK REVIEW

Lee Wright

**Animal Miracles**, Inspirational and Heroic True Stories, Brad Steiger & Sherry Hansen Steiger, distributed by Peribo \$17.95. Animal Miracles is composed of fifty 1-3 page personal accounts of out of the ordinary animal behaviour from all types of animals, both land and sea. Whether the animals are acting as angels on behalf of a higher power, or simply possess a keen sense of responsibility, these animals - and their stories - can only be described as miraculous. Easy reading for people not necessarily addicted to books and anyone who loves animals will enjoy it.



Grace Ayling with Bunny, who is checking out the view.

# MEMBERSHIP FORM

The Cat Protection Society, 103 Enmore Road, Enmore NSW 2042. Ph 02 9557-1011

I/We apply for membership or renewal of membership of the Society for the year commencing June 1999.

All persons joining from January 2000 remain financial until June 2001.

Subscription	\$1000.00	Life Governor	Pensioner Membership	\$10.00
	\$ 250.00	Life Membership	Junior Membership	\$5.00
	\$ 15.00	Annual Membership	(state birthday) .....	

Enclosed find cheque/money order for membership \$ ..... + Donation ..... TOTALS.....

Please cross cheques and make payable to THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY of NSW

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss SURNAME ..... Initial .....

Address: ..... Suburb: ..... Postcode .....

Pension Number: ..... Signature: ..... Date .....

Please include a stamped, self addressed envelope if you require a receipt.

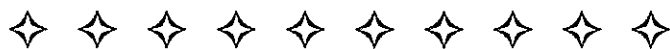
## CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

If you have changed your address since becoming a member please fill in this section.

Surname(block letters please) ..... Initials .....

New Address ..... Postcode .....

Previous Address ..... Postcode .....



## NEW MEMBERS

July 1999 - October 1999

Mr WJ Aiken, Wentworth Falls; Mrs S Barnes, East Hills; Mrs A Barrett, Bronte; Ms B Berry, Leichhardt; R Carter, Drummoyne; E Champion, Dundas; Miss P Couch, Brighton Le Sands; Mr B Crispo, Penrith; H Cutler, Engadine; Miss J Dempsey, Revesby; Ms C Docter, Edensor Park; Miss D Elias, Macksville; M Farrell, Springwood; Mrs C Finch, Ermington; D Fior, Baulkham Hills; Ms K Fleischmann, Enmore; Miss R Hargrave, Sth Penrith; Ms J Harrop, Cradoc tasmania; Miss M Hockey, Tempe; Ms L Hobson, Long Jetty; Ms A Hodge, Cremorne; AB Hogan, Blacktown; Mrs J Hovarth, Hackett ACT; Mr R Huber, East Hills; J Kellord, Padstow; Ms M Kelly, Wilmott; Mr R Kent, Jerrabomberra; Ms M Kulmar, Sydney; B Lake, Parramatta; E Loosemore, Werrington Downs; Ms D Ludin, Sydney; Mrs S Lussick, Rosebery; Ms J Macintosh, Leichhardt; L McCulloch, Kincumber; Ms M McCure, Hazelbrook; Mr & Mrs G McKenzie, Enmore; S Miller, Enfield; Mrs R Nelson, St Ives; F O'Sullivan, Bexley; Mrs A Pegler, Rosehill; K Pimblet, Newtown; G Pioro, Waverley; Ms A Plant, Bondi; Mrs M Pollard, Burwood; J Puren, Hunters Hill; P Reeves, Katoomba; Mr J Rich, Petersham; Mrs G Roberts, Lilyfield; Miss K Schaefer, Arncliffe; Mrs K Sorenson, Rockdale; Miss J Thomas, Stanmore; G Wheeler, Manly; Ms J Williams-Brindle, Matraville; JC Wilson, Raby; K Winton, Lane Cove.



*A good friend comes along once in nine lives.*

## OP SHOP OPPORTUNITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Once again, our old familiar call goes out. The Op Shop is a major income earner for the Society and again we are short of volunteers. Volunteering provides an easy day's 'outing' and a chance to help the Society by manning the counter, chatting with the customers and taking the cash.

New volunteers need not be intimidated - the shop normally has a staff of two and there would be an 'Old Hand' on hand to get you over the First Day Fears and into the fun of it. There's a lot of sitting, a few busy spells, and a chance to do a bit for the Society. We are happy to have you for one day a month, twice a month or once a week - which ever suits your schedule. At the moment, some volunteers are working alone or being asked to come in too frequently. My thanks to Robin Carter for filling in so often, too often! I fear I am overworking her, we need more paws on deck.

Please contact me, **GRACE AYLING**, on 9638 7364.

**URGENT** - Large to medium **BIRD CAGE** needed ASAP. If you can donate one, please contact the office 9557 1011 or 9519 7201. Thanks!!

# *Funny Face*

*the tale of a former farm cat as told to her human - Helmut Fetzner*

I was born on a farm where we had plenty of room to romp and play - it was a lovely life. There was a young human-woman who particularly liked me and gave me plenty of cuddles, but one day she left (her live-in relationship with the farmer's son had broken up). A few days after that two humans came to our farm. The women cuddled me and scratched my nose. You see, I have a blaze from my forehead to the tip of my nose that looks like a gum leaf and she tried to scrape it off. But then she took me on her lap in her car and the man drove us away from my birthplace to his house in town. I was at that time already a 'katten', the stage between a kitten and a cat.

He put me into a spare room, gave me food, water and litter and left me to get used to life in a house. Of course, he came back to cuddle me and give me more food and water. Outside my closed door I could hear other cats moving and talking and I wondered what they would be like. I was soon to find out. After several days the door was left open and I met the other three cats. After we became friends they told me their stories.

BEETHOVEN was the senior cat in the household. He was about 9, a seal point Siamese with a chequered life history. Originally he was the proud owner of a RAAF officer in Wagga. The officer was transferred to Canberra and could not take Patch, as he was then called, so he was taken into care by the officer's aunt who lived on the outskirts of Wagga Wagga. As farmers, they wanted an outdoor cat and Patch was used to living inside. In the end the relationship between the humans and Patch became so bad he was given to the vet to rehome or put down.

My new owner bought a blue Burmese from a Wagga breeder who knew about Patch and asked him if he wanted an adult, desexed Siamese. He agreed and the two cats came to his home. The Burmese had already been named Mozart, on account of his lovely night-music (purring). If this is Mozart, the other must be Beethoven and the name stuck! Beethoven is, to this day, quietly assertive, but if need be, rules the place with an iron paw. MOZART is already partially described. He is much quieter than Beethoven, but it would not pay to take liberties with him. He too, can put his paw down hard when needed, but he also has periods of smoochiness. And he still exercises his lovely 'night-music'.

SUZY (formally Brookong Suzetta), is a lilac point Siamese who joined the household as a 'kattan' as well. Our human was undecided for a long time as to whether he should breed with her so she went on the 'pill' for 18 months, got quite fat and somewhat sluggish. Finally he made up his mind that she would not have kittens and she was desexed. One morning after she had recovered from her op she discovered the cat flap by following Mozart and Beethoven through it one morning - and has lived as an indoor-outdoor cat ever since.

Suzy just loves running in the garden and promptly lost all her

excess weight. One day she was grabbed, claws clipped, shampooed and taken to a cat show. To his and her surprise, she won handsomely so he took her to more shows. In the end she got so nervous with the show routine and the long drives that he listened to her pleas and retired her. After all, we live in a small country town, well away from Sydney and Canberra where most shows are held, and this involves hours and hours of driving. This is a great disadvantage to us country cats. Our city cousins and their humans don't know how lucky they are.

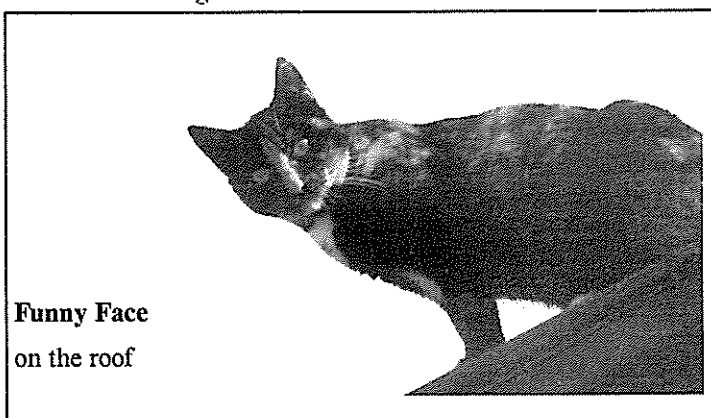
But Suzy reached the status of NSW Double Grand Champion, ACT Triple Champion, CCCofA Champion and she became Equal 5<sup>th</sup> Cat of the Year in Group 2 in 1995. Now she really enjoys her indoor-outdoor life without any commitments. My human has taken me to shows and I have won minor placings, (3<sup>rd</sup> domestic spay, most appealing face, etc) but nothing like Suzy and Lurleen.

So these are my companions. Well, there is still another cat, LURLEEN, but she lives by herself in a cattery in the backyard. Mozart told me he hates the sight of her and the feeling is very mutual, so for peace and quiet, she is kept apart from us even tho I get along alright with her.

This is now my life: between 7 & 8 am our human opens the cat flap to let us out for our free run, except on those days he has to go away. Then we stay in the house and a neighbour comes over and feeds and tends us. Once Beethoven had a bad mishap when our human was away. He was bitten by a brown snake and only survived because of prompt vet attention. So our human is not taking any further chances with our safety and we stay inside.

Around 2 pm he calls us all inside and lets Lurleen run free for a few hours. We get plenty of food and twice a week we get extra mince steak and each weekend we get a raw chicken wing (he calls that our toothbrush, whatever that is). When he goes to bed we all congregate there sooner or later and in cold weather we snuggle up to him under the blankets. In summer we lie on top or against his legs, wherever we are most comfortable.

**I could well imagine a worse life for a cat!**



**Funny Face**  
on the roof

